



**MINUTES OF THE SECOND ORDINARY ASSEMBLY MEETING OF
THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS IN CYPRUS
(AFICS-CYPRUS)**

HELD AT UNFICYP HQ ON 12 MARCH 2014

Agenda Item 1 – Opening of the Session and Adoption of the Agenda

1. Mr. Ioannis Antoniadis (President of the Association and Executive Committee) opened the meeting at 09:30 hours by welcoming all participants. He advised the participants that the agenda was restricted to eight items and that it was necessary to conclude the meeting in time for the UNJSPF representative to make his presentation to the retirees at 11:15 hours.

2. The President referred to the documents provided to the participants and advised that the first action to be taken was the approval of the provisional agenda. It was noted that 28 members were present, in addition to the prior receipt by the Executive Committee of five valid 'power of attorneys' for the Assembly Session. All but one had paid their 2014 annual membership fees. Therefore a quorum, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, had been achieved which permitted the Assembly to proceed with its deliberations. The President accordingly invited the members to make any comments or observations on the Agenda. As none were forthcoming, **the Agenda was adopted unanimously by the Assembly** 'as is'.

3. The President then proposed that Ms. Margaret Theophanous be requested to take the minutes of the meeting. He added that the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly also provided for two Ballot Supervisors and suggested that they be appointed, if necessary, at a later stage.

Agenda Item 2 – Adoption of the 13 March 2013 Minutes of the First Assembly Meeting

4. The President advised that the Minutes of the First Assembly meeting which had been prepared by Ms. Margaret Theophanous and reviewed by Mr. Gert Schmidt and himself were subsequently forwarded to all the members of the Association for any observations they wished to make. He added, however, that it was still necessary for the members to approve the minutes in the form presented (which were included in the document folder provided to the members present). As no comments were made by the members **the minutes were approved by the Assembly**.

Bank: Hellenic Bank Ltd. (Branch 121), Corner 92 Digheni Akrita & Kretis, CY-1061 Nicosia

Account Name: Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS) - Cyprus

Account No.: 121-01-668228-01 (Euro) - IBAN No.: CY67 0050 0121 0001 2101 6682 2801 - SWIFT (BIC): HEBACY2N

Agenda Item 3 – Report of the President on the activities of the year 2013 and for 2014

5. The President advised that he would deal with some items only and then give the floor to the other members of the Executive Committee before opening the floor for the general discussion.

6. The President requested the participants to refer to the documents given to them in which a full report prepared by the Executive Committee of the activities that had occurred in 2012 and 2013 was attached.

7. The President then advised that regrettably registration of the Association with the local authorities in Cyprus had not been approved despite the excellent work carried out by the AFICS lawyer since 30 January 2013 with respect to liaising and taking follow-up action with the Ministry of the Interior. He added that the Executive Committee was deeply disappointed by the unjustified delay.

8. The President went on to say that AFICS-Cyprus had become a full member of FAFICS in July 2013, and that the Executive Committee had decided that it should take part in the next FAFICS Council meeting to be held in Rome in July 2014 and that Mr. Gert Schmidt (Deputy President and Secretary of the Executive Committee) had been chosen to attend the meeting.

9. The President stated that he would be serving on the Executive Committee for a period of two years until the end of next year's Ordinary Assembly meeting, and Mr. Gert Schmidt, Mr. Michael Voniatis and Mr. Gianfranco Longo for three years, until the end of the Ordinary Assembly meeting in 2016. He added that Ms. Cecilia Sidera had resigned due to health issues and Mr. Klaus Hoecthl, whose candidature had been endorsed by the Executive Committee, had replaced her for the duration of her mandate, i.e. until 2015. However, Mr. Hoecthl had been unable to attend the Assembly or the Executive Committee meetings as he had to go to Austria for personal reasons.

10. The President then informed the Assembly that in December 2013 the Executive Committee had prepared and circulated to the members the first issue of the AFICS-Cyprus newsletter. The newsletter would be issued at least once a year and would include decisions made by the Executive Committee together with matters relating to FAFICS, the Pension Fund and other relevant issues. The newsletter would normally not exceed two pages so as to minimise postal costs.

11. The President then handed over the floor to the Secretary, Mr. Gert Schmidt. The Secretary stated that he was delighted to see so many participants at the meeting. He added that the 2012 and 2013 year in review report was detailed and most of what he wanted to say was included in the report. He added that there were 75 AFICS-Cyprus members and that 195 retirees in Cyprus were receiving a pension benefit as at the end of 2013. He went on to say that three persons had joined in the current year and he expressed the hope that more retirees/beneficiaries would be encouraged to join the Association.

12. With regard to social activities, the Secretary stated that UNFICYP had celebrated the United Nation's birthday in October last year, to which members of the Association were invited, and there had been an AFICS-Cyprus excursion to Choirokitia, Lefkara and Kato Drys in November 2013 with good turn-out. He went on to say that from time to time letters

from the Association were mailed out to those of its members with no e-mail address. He urged members to check their emails and the Association's website at regular intervals where pertinent information was posted.

13. The President then gave the floor to the Treasurer, Mr. Michael Voniatis. He also welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed a hope that there would be more occasions for AFICS-Cyprus members to meet and that efforts were underway for more activities planned in 2014.

14. The Treasurer advised that the financial situation of AFICS-Cyprus was healthy and the Association's Auditor, Mr. Frank Clancy had audited AFICS-Cyprus' account and financial statements for 2013. However, due to the delay in registering the Association, compounded by the financial situation in country, there had been a delay in obtaining a bank account for the Association. The Executive Committee had subsequently applied for a bank account in December 2013 through the Central Bank of Cyprus, which was approved in early January 2014. The Treasurer stated that in future, when the Association's financing was firmly established, there might be a potential for revising the annual membership fees.

15. The Treasurer then referred to the matrix included in the proposed budget for 2014 wherein it mentioned the annual membership fees applicable to those members receiving a pension of more than or less than € 500 per month. He added that the Executive Committee would do its best to manage the budget efficiently, which he considered reasonable, and in the best interests of AFICS-Cyprus and its members. He continued by informing the Assembly that currently there was € 3,163.15 available inclusive of € 800 membership fees collected from members attending the Assembly that day.

16. The President pointed out that the advocate's fees and costs for the application to register the Association in Cyprus had not yet been paid which was expected to amount to between € 1,000 and € 1,500.

17. The President then handed over the floor to the Webmaster, Mr. Gianfranco Longo who gave a brief update on the AFICS-Cyprus' website. He advised that as in late 2013 the site was running out of space it had been upgraded earlier this year from five to ten pages and was now more extensive in content.

18. The President asked the meeting participants whether they had any comments or suggestions to make and as there were none, he invited the Assembly to take note of his report. **The Assembly took note of the President's report**

Agenda Item 4 – Election of members to Executive Committee vacant seats

19. The President referred to the document relating to agenda item 4 and stated that in paragraph 8 thereof the decision of the Assembly was required to take note of the Executive Committee's decision to elect Mr. Klaus Hoechtl to serve on the Committee in place of Ms. Cecilia Sidera who had resigned for reason of health. **The Assembly took note of the Executive Committee's decision.**

20. The President also referred to paragraph 9 of the same document, wherein it is stated that the Executive Committee had come to the conclusion that it would operate more effectively if the number of its members were increased from five to seven which was the

maximum authorised under the Statutes. He was of the opinion that having seven members on the Committee would be useful but to-date no candidatures had been received. He therefore asked the Assembly whether there was anyone who was interested in becoming a member of the Executive Committee. Ms. Fredy Galatopoulou and Ms. Miriam Pericleous volunteered and put their names forward to be considered as members of the Executive Committee.

21. The President asked the Assembly whether they had any comments to make and as there were none he submitted Ms. Fredy Galatopoulou and Ms. Miriam Pericleous for election to serve on the Executive Committee for a two-year period. **The Assembly voted unanimously to elect Ms. Galatopoulou and Ms. Pericleous to serve on the Executive Committee.**

Agenda Item 5 – Report by the Auditor (Mr. F. Clancy) on the 2013 Income and Expenditures

22. The President referred to the report of the Association's Auditor, Mr. Frank Clancy and the financial statements for 2013 which shows income received and expenditure incurred. Income amounted to € 1,770.18 which emanated entirely from membership fees.

23. The President stated that as he had previously mentioned the advocate's fees and costs with respect to the application for registering of the Association in Cyprus had not yet been paid. He pointed out that expenditure included the cost of membership to FAFICS, supplies and materials and equipment and postage for the year. With regard to the cost of postage, he advised that sixteen members had no email access and also that some important documentation had been sent to all members also by regular post.

24. Mr. Clancy introduced his report as the Association's Auditor and stated that according to his examination AFICS' accounts were in good order. The President asked the participants whether they had any observations to make. As there were none, **the Assembly approved this Agenda item.**

25. The President, following concurrence by Mr. Clancy, requested the Assembly to approve that Mr. Clancy's position as Auditor of the Association is extended for a further year until the end of the next Ordinary Assembly meeting of the Association to be held in 2015. **The Assembly unanimously elected Mr. Clancy to serve as the Association's auditor for another year.**

Agenda Item 6 – Review and Adoption of the draft 2014 Budget and 2013 Actual Income and Expenditure and related statements

26. The President referred to the document with respect to the draft 2014 budget and pointed out that income would only be forthcoming from membership fees. Expenditure was expected to result from registration of the Association, supplies and materials and equipment, postage and other costs as specified in the document. The cost of Mr. Schmidt's trip to Rome in July 2014 for the FAFICS meeting would be paid from miscellaneous expenditure.

27. The President asked the Assembly participants whether they had any comments to make on this agenda item. As there were none, **the Assembly adopted the budget for**

2014 and the 2013 actual Income and Expenditure and related statements as presented.

Agenda Item 7 – FAFICS Matters

28. The President requested that the Secretary present this agenda item. The Secretary advised the Assembly that FAFICS matters did not require the approval of the Assembly, but the Assembly may wish to take note of the agenda item. He added that from time to time information was received from the FAFICS Secretariat including a full report after the annual FAFICS Council meeting. Information of interest to AFICS-Cyprus would be communicated to its members. The FAFICS membership fee for 2014 was assessed at US\$114 and had been paid. He considered the money well spent.

29. The Secretary went on to say that FAFICS had advised the Executive Committee on the issue of 'Managing after-service health insurance liabilities' (paragraph 7 of the document pertaining to this agenda item refers) and how it would affect ASHI subscribers. He felt that the management of ASHI by the Pension Fund would not be beneficial to its subscribers. The Executive Committee would continue to follow-up the matter with FAFICS and would post any information it received on the Association's web site. **The Assembly took note of this agenda item.**

Agenda Item 8 – Other business

30. The President stated that before discussing the Other Business on the Agenda, he wished to refer to the questionnaire that had previously been sent out to members of AFICS-Cyprus regarding social events that would be of interest to them. In view of the results of this questionnaire, it was decided that an annual dinner would be arranged and the members would be advised in due course when it would be held this year. He also advised that other social events which were of interest were excursions and the first one had been organized in November of last year which was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. He added that our member, Mr. Colin Garland, had agreed to organize a second excursion on 3 April 2014 and invited him to advise the Assembly of the programme envisaged.

31. Mr. Garland informed the Assembly that the programme consisted of visits to four historical sites, namely, Kolossi Castle, Temple of Apollo, the Curium Stadium and Curium Theatre followed by lunch at a restaurant on Curium beach. Those who wished to attend were requested to meet at the Kolossi Castle car park at 0930 hours on 3 April 2014. An invitation to join the excursion would be issued imminently and distributed to all members.

32. The President stated that non-members of AFICS and friends of members were also welcome to participate in the excursions.

33. The President then requested the Secretary to brief the Assembly on other business.

34. AFICS-Cyprus Life Membership Fee and review of current and pro-rata fees for ordinary Membership. The Secretary advised the Assembly that as from 1 January 2015 those members who so wished could make a one-time payment for life membership of AFICS-Cyprus. He added that the Executive Committee had decided in October 2013 to

permit a quarterly pro-rata membership fee payment for new members who joined AFICS during the year. In particular, he requested the Assembly to take note of the life time membership provision. **The Assembly took note of this element.**

35. AFICS-Cyprus Membership Contact Listing – Expansion. The Secretary stated that at the Founding Assembly held on 20 November 2012 and the First Assembly session held on 13 March 2013 detailed discussions took place as to how much information was required to be included in the contact list. Since then there had been requests from some members asking for more details to be included. The Secretary indicated that the list was treated as strictly confidential and was only mailed to the members or handed out in hard copy at the annual assembly session and as such had been included in the folder of documents given to members at this meeting. The Secretary requested the Assembly to provide the Executive Committee with guidance on how to proceed, i.e. to keep the list as is or to expand it.

36. After deliberations on the matter, **the Assembly decided that the information contained in the contact list was sufficient and should remain ‘as is’.**

37. 1 October International Day of Older People – Yearly Dinner. The Secretary advised that AFICS-Cyprus had been encouraged by FAFICS to celebrate International Day of Older People and the Executive Committee had suggested that it be combined with the proposed annual dinner to be held on or around 1 October of this year. A member pointed out that 1 October was a public holiday in Cyprus and it was therefore proposed that the dinner be held on a week day after 1 October. **The Assembly endorsed the proposal to host the Association’s annual dinner on a week day after 1 October to be decided by the Executive Committee.**

38. Locally Administered MIP – Payment of Quarterly Contribution by EFT. The Secretary advised that this item had been requested to be included on the agenda as several members had indicated that Electronically Fund Transfer (EFT) was not yet accepted as a mode of payment of the quarterly ASHI MIP premiums by the UNFICYP Finance Section.

39. A number of AFICS-Cyprus members felt that the EFT payment method would greatly facilitate those subscribers living away from Nicosia and especially those who happened to be abroad for extended period of time. At the request of the members, the Executive Committee would, subject to the approval of the Assembly, raise the issue with the UNFICYP Administration with a view to introducing EFT as an alternative mode of payment of ASHI MIP premiums. The Secretary pointed out to the Assembly that should the EFT mode of payment be accepted by the UNFICYP Administration any bank charges, sending as well as destination charges imposed by banks involved in the transaction, would have to be borne by the members concerned. **The Assembly requested the Executive Committee to formally raise this issue with the UNFICYP Administration and in due course report the outcome thereof to the members of the Association.**

40. There being no further business, the President adjourned the meeting at 11:10 hours.